



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

October 11, 1988

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

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Mr. Wilbur Friedman
300 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Wilbur:

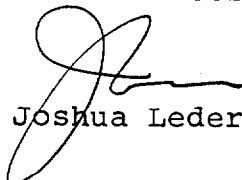
I have your note of October 5th about the work of the Institute of Semitic Studies. Yes, I will engage the Revson Board about the merits including this kind of scholarly work in its program, which is not the case at the present time.

In fact I have my own personal fascination about the history of the Alephbet for many reasons. I spent a couple of weeks, a few summers ago, trying to track down the possible pictographic origins of the semitic alphabet, and was surprised to find how little we knew about that. If there were any hieroglyphs that displayed the character that became Aleph, as a picture of an ox, that would give us a glimmer; but as far as I could find out at that time that evidence was lacking. For that reason, I am rather sorry I will not be able to attend part of that symposium later this month.

Quite independently my young brother is absolutely obsessed with the Alephbet but from a caballistic and artistic perspective. I enclose a sample of some of his work which has been rendered both in tapestry and in electronic video format (!). I know that he would be very eager to have an opportunity to meet you and your daughter on the next occasion of his visit to New York (from Jerusalem).

With my best regards to Frances and yourself,

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

Encl.

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